

**Social Welfare
over the Life Course in
Brunei Darussalam**

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Social Welfare over the Life Course in Brunei Darussalam

Edited by

Aris Ananta • Siti Mazidah Mohamad
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CONTENTS

<i>List of Tables</i>	viii
<i>List of Figures</i>	x
<i>Preface</i>	xii
<i>About the Contributors</i>	xiv

PART I:

SETTING THE CONTEXT

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 1. | Social Welfare Trajectories: A Closer Look at Brunei Darussalam
<i>Aris Ananta, Siti Mazidah Mohamad, Chang-Yau Hoon and Mahani Hamdan</i> | 3 |
| 2. | The Integration of Malay Islamic Monarchy and Welfare in Brunei Darussalam: A Timeless Legacy
<i>Haji Tassim Haji Abu Bakar, Mahani Hamdan and Emil Ali</i> | 25 |

PART II:

WELFARE AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 3. | Leveraging Digital Transformation for Social Inclusion in Brunei
<i>Muhammad Anshari</i> | 49 |
|----|---|----|

-
- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 4. | Resilient Communities: Promoting Health Through Lifestyle Choices in Brunei
<i>Siti Rohaiza Ahmad</i> | 70 |
| 5. | The Impact of Climate Change on Welfare Provision in Brunei
<i>Gabriel Y.V. Yong, Noor Hasharina Hassan and Muhammad 'Afifi Junaidi</i> | 96 |

**PART III:
YOUNG POPULATION**

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 6. | Youth as Agents of Social Development in Brunei: Participation in Social Entrepreneurship
<i>Siti Mazidah Mohamad</i> | 121 |
| 7. | Working to Learn and Learning to Work in Brunei: Youth Transitions from Education to Work
<i>Adeline Goh Yuen Sze and Siti Norhedayah Latif</i> | 143 |
| 8. | Looking Through the Lens of Teachers: Inclusive Education in Brunei Primary Government Schools
<i>Dk Syarifah Syairah Pengiran Haji Rosli and Sin Yee Koh</i> | 168 |

**PART IV:
ADULTHOOD**

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 9. | Employment, Unemployment and Financial Hardship During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Brunei
<i>Siti Fatimahwati Pehin Dato Musa, Aris Ananta and Valatheeswaran Chinnakkannu</i> | 195 |
| 10. | Ladders and Barriers: Social and Economic Mobility in Contemporary Brunei
<i>Asiyah Kumpoh and Norainna Besar</i> | 219 |
| 11. | Income and Happiness Across Gender in Brunei
<i>Ly Slesman and Chang-Yau Hoon</i> | 242 |

**PART V:
GOLDEN AGE**

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 12. | Evaluating the Impact of Financial Sophistication on Retirement Planning: A Study of Retirement Groups in Brunei
<i>Pg Md Hasnol Alwee Pg Md Salleh and Haji Roslee Haji Baha</i> | 277 |
| 13. | Older People as Golden Citizens: The Silver Lining in Brunei
<i>Evi Nurvidya Arifin and Afiqah Amin</i> | 301 |
| | <i>Index</i> | 328 |

LIST OF TABLES

2.1	MIB and Welfare	31
5.1	Temperature and Rainfall Statistics for 1980–2009 and 1992–2021	102
5.2	Climate Risks and Impacts	106
8.1	Types of Special Educators in Brunei	176
9.1	Unemployment Rate, 2018–21	204
9.2	Labour Force Participation Rate, 2018–21	205
9.3	Employment Status by Sector, 2018–21	208
9.4	Employment by Average Hours Worked Per Week (in Hours), 2018–21	210
9.5	Average Monthly Income (in BND), 2018–21	212
11.1	Summary Statistics	251
11.2	Factor Analysis and Correlation Among the Retaining Factors	257
11.3A	Link Between Income and Satisfaction with Material Life Sphere Across Gender	260
11.3B	Link Between Income and Satisfaction with Post-Material Life Sphere Across Gender	264

12.1	Breakdown of Respondents, by Grouping	283
12.2	Summary Profile of Respondents	284
12.3	Weighted Scores of Ranked Financial Advice	291
13.1	Households by Age Group of Household Head: Brunei, 2005–15	307
13.2	Household Distribution by Monthly Income and Household Head’s Age Groups: Brunei, 2015/16	311
13.3	Trends in the Average Monthly Wages by Age Group: Brunei, 2018–22	314
13.4	Employer’s Contribution Rate by Salary Level Under SPK	318

LIST OF FIGURES

3.1	Milestones of Digital Development Brunei Darussalam, 2001–23	55
3.2	Brunei Darussalam’s Age Distribution Percentage in 2022	58
5.1	Areas at Risk of Flooding due to Rising Sea Level and Increased Rainfall	104
5.2	Welfare Provision and Sustainable Development	111
5.3	Climate Change Threat to Sustainable Development	112
6.1	Tripartite Structure of Youth Participation in Development	135
7.1	Graduate Employment Study for Apprenticeship Programmes	151
7.2	Enrolment in the Pre-Vocational Programme by Five-Cohort Groups	153
7.3	Employment Status of Students Post Pre-Vocational Programme, 2017–23	153
11.1	Human Development Index (HDI) and HDI Across Gender	245
11.2	Income Per Capita Across Gender	246
11.3	Life Expectancy Across Gender	246
11.4	Secondary and Tertiary School Enrolment Across Gender	247

11.5	DAG Causal Model for Income-LS Nexus Across Gender in Belait District	251
11.6	Happiness Across Gender in Belait District	254
11.7	Income Levels Across Gender in Belait District	255
11.8	Educational Level Across Gender in Belait District	255
11.9	Occupational Status Across Gender in Belait District	256
11.10	Belait District of Brunei Darussalam	270
12.1	Percentage of Correct Responses to Financial Literacy Questions, by Grouping	285
12.2	Percentage of Correct Responses on Financial Literacy Questions, by Attendance of Financial Event	288
12.3	Percentage of Correct Responses on Financial Literacy Questions, by Level of Confidence in Meeting Basic Needs in Retirement	289
12.4	Percentage of Correct Responses on Financial Literacy Questions, by Financial Advice	290
12.5	Percentage of Correct Responses on Financial Literacy Questions, by Multiple Sources of Financial Advice	291
13.1	Population Age Structure: Brunei, 1981 and 2021	306
13.2	Labour Force Participation Rate by Age and Sex: Brunei, 1991–2021	313
13.3	Age Structure of Population by Religion: Brunei, 2021	321–22

PREFACE

Ensuring social welfare for their citizens is a universal objective pursued by all nations, and Brunei Darussalam, a Malay-Muslim monarchy state in Southeast Asia, is no different. Despite having the smallest population in the region, Brunei Darussalam enjoys the second-highest income per capita in Southeast Asia, offering a unique case study on how citizens' welfare can be improved. Recognizing that welfare is deeply influenced by historical trajectories and the socio-political-economic contexts, this book adopts a life course approach to examine social welfare in Brunei Darussalam.

This book is an essential reference for anyone interested in social welfare in Brunei Darussalam and for those keen to understand how a life course approach organizes the discussion on social welfare. It is also suitable as a reference for university courses, such as development studies and courses focusing on the life course approach. Academics, policymakers and business professionals may find this book particularly beneficial.

Finally, the book does not claim to have explored all aspects of social welfare trajectories in Brunei Darussalam. There is much more to research. As additional data and literature become available, a more comprehensive picture of social welfare in Brunei Darussalam through the lens of a life course will emerge. Nevertheless, the book provides an initial understanding of social welfare in Brunei, covering perspectives on various situational contexts over time, from newborn to old age, in alignment with the life course approach. It marks the beginning of such studies, not only pertaining to Brunei Darussalam but also to other countries.

The book has been prepared under the coordination of the Centre for Advanced Research (CARE) at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), led by Dr Siti Mazidah Mohamad, the Director of CARE. It includes contributions from scholars across various faculties and institutions within UBD. CARE focuses its research on socio-economic issues in Brunei Darussalam, especially on its three clusters: Family, Ageing, Social Welfare, and the Life Course Trajectory; Socioeconomic Development, Welfare and Sustainable Futures; and Digital Transformation and Society: Social Media, AI and Emerging Futures.

The publication of this book was made possible thanks to the steadfast support of the Vice Chancellor of UBD, Dr Hazri bin Haji Kifle. The editors also acknowledge the significant grant (UBD/RSCH/1.10/FICBF(b)/2023/013) from Universiti Brunei Darussalam, which facilitated this book's production and its co-publication with ISEAS Publishing in Singapore. The editors also extend their sincere appreciation to ISEAS Publishing in Singapore and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in Brunei Darussalam for their insightful comments, which have contributed to improving the quality of this book.

This is the second co-publication between UBD and ISEAS Publishing, following the first co-publication, titled *Stability, Growth and Sustainability: Catalysts for Socio-economic Development in Brunei Darussalam*, edited by Aris Ananta, Chang-Yau Hoon and Mahani Hamdan, published in 2023.

*Aris Ananta, Siti Mazidah Mohamad, Chang-Yau Hoon and
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